

Serial No. 09/725,894
Docket No. PNDF-00163

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 12, and 15-18 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 15, and 16 have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 6, 8-11, and 14 would be allowable if presented in independent form. The entire substance of allowable dependent claim 6 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, and claim 6 has been canceled. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 are allowable. Claims 8-11 have been canceled, since in independent form they would be redundant with claims 2-5.

Likewise, independent claim 12 has been amended by incorporating the entire substance of allowable dependent claim 14, as well as the substance of intermediate claim 13, and claims 13 and 14 have been canceled. Therefore, claim 12 and its dependent claims 15-18 are allowable.

Claims 7 and 19-24 have also been canceled in the interest of expediting prosecution.

The Office Action again objects to the drawings, with the contention that "they fail to show details of the circled branched process 3 in the flow charts of Figs. 2 and 5; details of the circled branched process 12 in the flow charts of Figs. 8 and 9; and details of the circled branched process 33 in the flow charts of Fig. 12." This objection and this contention are traversed.

All the flow charts of the drawings use a well known, conventional flowcharting technique to show branches too remote for showing by direct connection. Thus, for example, in Figure 1, the YES output from decision block S3 is shown connected to a circled 1, as is the output from block S12. In Figure 2, a circled 1 is connected to the input to block S21. By

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convention, this indicates that the YES output from decision block S3 and the output from block S12 are connected to the input to block S21.

The same conventional technique is used with the circled 2-4 in the flow chart of Figures 2-5, the circled 11-13 of the flow chart of Figures 8-10, and the circled 31-33 in the flow chart of Figures 12-14. Note that the Brief description of the Drawings brings out on page 5, lines 17-24 that Figures 2-5 constitute one flow chart, on page 6, lines 6-11 that Figures 8-10 constitute one flow chart, and on page 6, lines 15-23 that Figures 12-14 constitute one flow chart.

Note, also, that page 19, lines 5-9 states that in the flow charts, the flow proceeds from S56 (circled 3 in Figure 5, circled 12 in Figure 9, and circled 33 in Figure 12) to S6 (circled 3 in Figure 2, circled 12 in Figure 8, and circled 33 in Figure 12).

Thus, the circled 3, 12, and 33 show the flow in conventional manner, just as do the circled 1, 2, 4, 11, 13, 31, and 32.

Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

In the event the Examiner maintains this objection, he is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below to discuss the matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-5, 12, and 15-18, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number

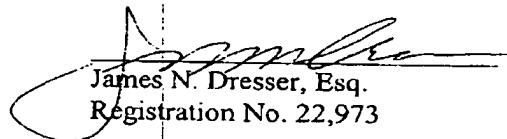
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listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

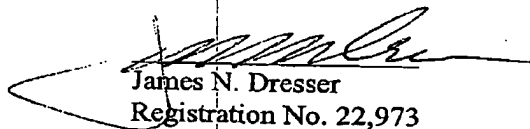
Date: December 20, 2004


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Nabil M. El Hady, Group Art Unit 2154 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 20th day of December 2004.


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